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Sri MANJAYA SHETTY :—" Will the Government consider the suggestion to reduce the strength of the jails in the State in view of the fact that almost all the leading Communists are out of jail? "

Removal of control over distribution of yarn.

* 63 Q.—Sri PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to remove control over distribution of yarn?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Control over distribution of yarn by retailers to consumers has been removed for a period of three months. It is also being considered, if with a view to reduce the price to the consumers, mills should not be allowed to sell half of the yarn allocated to handlooms directly to consumers at ex-mill prices."

Sri PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" May I know Sir, whether arrangements have been made by the Government to enable the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society to get as usual 36 per cent of the total quantity of yarn allotted to this State? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, at present the mills are permitted to sell a portion of the yarn to their own consumers. As a result, proportionate distribution to the handloom weavers and other agencies dealing in yarn will naturally be reduced to less than the usual quota."

Sri PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" In view of the decision taken by the Government, permitting the mills to sell yarn to consumers of their choice, may I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that the handloom weavers' co-operative societies are being starved of yarn, and what arrangements do they propose to make to supply adequate quantities of yarn to the co-operative societies? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" At the present moment, my information is that no co-operative society is suffering from want of yarn, but if the hon. Member will give a specific instance or will categorically tell me that yarn is deficient, I shall certainly make enquiries and do the needful."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that the fishermen co-operative societies of Waltair are suffering from want of yarn and that their nets have been in disrepair for a very long time? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Notice, Sir."

Sri D. K. RAJU :—" Are the Government aware that in spite of controls and restrictions, black-market is still raging in the mill area? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I thank the hon. Member for his information."

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SRI K. GOVINDA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the yarn supplied to the Laveru Co-operative Society of Cheepurapalli taluk sometimes contains stones, hay and so many other things? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" If the hon. Member brings any instance to my notice, I shall consider and investigate the matter."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH :—" కోఆపరేటివ్ సొసైటీలకు ఇస్తున్నటువంటి నూలులో ఎన్నోభాగం ప్రత్యేకించి ఇస్తారు? (What is the portion of yarn allotted to the co-operative societies?) "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" It will be a little less than the original 36 per cent they were getting. The other day the hon. Gentleman Sri Kotaiah was working out the percentage with me. It comes to about 24 per cent."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Why was it reduced? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Member is aware of the fact that the Government of India have permitted the mills to give a portion of their yarn production to consumers directly and, therefore, the quota set apart specially for distribution in the States gets reduced. Proportionately that amount to which the handloom weavers are entitled will be reduced. But I can tell the hon. Member that so far as my information goes, there is plenty of yarn available in the market and, therefore, there is no difficulty experienced by weavers."

Lease of the right of collection of tolls at ferries.

* 64 *Q.*—SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state why the right of collecting tolls at Ponumudy ferry which has been granted to the Ponumudi Fishermen Co-operative Society in 1951–52, was denied to them and put in public auction in 1952–53?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The general question whether leases of the right of collecting tolls at ferries need be given to the co-operative societies without conducting public auction is under the consideration of the Government. Before a decision could be arrived at on the question, the District Board had sold the lease in public auction in accordance with the normal procedure."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" Was there not a Government Order allowing the fishermen co-operative societies, wherever they existed, the privilege of running the ferries for a definite annual lease amount? "